-314.765

-301.929

6750

7388

7982

8540

9069

9608

FY 2012 .....

FY 2013 .....

FY 2003 .....

FY 2004 .....

FY 2005 .....

FY 2006

FY 2007 .....

FY 2008

(5) Public Debt

#### RECOMMENDED APPOINTMENTS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter I sent to Vice President CHENEY on the appointment of Richard W. Bratton, of Wyoming, to the Citizen's Coinage Advisory Commission.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, May 6, 2003.

Hon. DICK CHENEY,

President of the Senate,

Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 108-015 I have respectfully recommended to Secretary John Snow of the United States Department of the Treasury the following individual to be appointed to the Citizen's Coinage Advisory Commission:

Mr. Richard W. Bratton of Wyoming. Sincerely,

BILL FRIST,

Majority Leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following letter regarding an appointment to the Citizen's Coinage Advisory Commission be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE.

Washington, DC, May 7, 2003.

Hon. DICK CHENEY,

President of the Senate,

Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 108-15 I have today respectfully recommended to Secretary John Snow of the United States Department of the Treasury the following individual to be appointed to the Citizen's Coinage Advisory Commission:

Leon Billings of Maryland. Sincerely,

Tom Daschle, Democratic Leader.

SUBMITTING CHANGES TO COM-MITTEE ALLOCATIONS, FUNC-TIONAL LEVELS, AND BUDG-ETARY AGGREGATES

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, section 421 of H. Con. Res. 95, the 2004 Budget Resolution, requires the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to make appropriate adjustments in the appropriate allocations and aggregates to reflect the difference between Public Law 108-11—the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003—and the corresponding levels assumed in the resolution.

As enacted, the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2003 contains changes in new budget authority, outlays and revenues that differ from those assumed in the budget resolution. For fiscal year 2003, the supplemental provides \$4.432 billion in budget authority, \$3.745 billion in outlays, and \$2 million in revenues above the amounts assumed in H. Con. Res. 95. The supplemental also provides \$215 million in additional new budget au-

thority and \$332 million in additional outlays for fiscal year 2004; over the period of fiscal years 2004 through 2013, it provides an additional \$888 million in budget authority and \$1.406 billion in outlays over the amounts assumed in the resolution.

I am therefore inserting a set of tables into the RECORD which show the revised allocations and aggregates, reflecting the adjustments I am making pursuant to section 421. These revised allocations and aggregates are the appropriate levels to be used for enforcement of the 2004 Budget Resolution. I ask unanimous consent to print the above-referenced tables in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004—H. CON. RES. 95; REVISION TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 421

#### [In billions of dollars]

[In billions of dollars]	
Section 101	
(1)(A) Revenues (on-budget):	
FY 2003	1303.113
FY 2004	
FY 2005	
FY 2006	
FY 2007	
FY 2008	
FY 2009	
FY 2010	
FY 2011	
FY 2012	
FY 2013	
(1)(B) Changes in Federal Revenues:	
FY 2003	-56.721
FY 2004	
FY 2005	
FY 2006	
FY 2007	
FY 2008	
FY 2009	
FY 2010	
FY 2011	
FY 2012	
FY 2013	
(2) Budget Authority (on-budget):	
FY 2003	1867.072
FY 2004	1861.333
FY 2005	1990.603
FY 2006	2122.725
FY 2007	2233.213
FY 2008	2349.256
FY 2009	2454.814
FY 2010	2555.986
FY 2011	2669.845

FY 2012 ......FY 2013 .....

FY 2003 .....

FY 2004 .....

FY 2005 .....

FY 2006 .....

FY 2007 .....

FY 2008 .....

FY 2009 .....

FY 2010 .....

FY 2011 .....

FY 2012 .....

FY 2013 .....

FY 2003 .....

FY 2004 .....

FY 2005 .....

FY 2006 .....

FY 2007 .....

FY 2008 .....

FY 2009 .....

FY 2010 .....

(4) Deficits or Surpluses (on-budget):

(3) Budget Outlays (on-budget):

2754.409

2875.544

1819.167

1884.280

1981.995

2089.892

2190.978

2307.637

2420.227

2528.260

2651.603

2724.337

2855.914

-516.054

-558.828

-448.120

-432.381

-400.727

405.793

- 366 465

-360.323

FY 2008	9608
FY 2009 FY 2010	10109 10608
FY 2011	11132
FY 2012	11596
FY 2013	12048
(6) Debt Held by the Public FY 2003	3921
FY 2004	4303
FY 2005	4604
FY 2006 FY 2007	4835 5013
FY 2008	5175
FY 2009	5278
FY 2010	5356 5435
FY 2011 FY 2012	5435 5432
FY 2013	5402
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BU	
FISCAL YEAR 2004—H. CON. RES.	
SIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEM SUANT TO SECTION 421	ENI PUR-
[In billions of dollars]	
Section 103 (on-budget, in billions)	
(1) National Defense (050):	
FY 2003	
BA	455.302
OT FY 2004:	420.504
BA	400.546
OT	421.994
FY 2005: BA	420.071
OT	419.916
FY 2006:	440 105
BA OT	440.185 427.159
FY 2007:	1211100
BA	460.435
OT FY 2008:	438.934
BA	480.886
OT	462.955
FY 2009: BA	491.951
OT	479.285
FY 2010:	700.001
BA OT	502.301 493.226
FY 2011:	455.220
BA	511.859
OT FY 2012:	508.131
BA	520.553
OT	510.509
FY 2013: BA	529.428
OT	524.494
(2) International Affairs (150):	
FY 2003:	
BA OT	30.616 22.781
FY 2004:	22.701
BA	25.681
OT FY 2005:	27.415
BA	29.734
OT	25.663
FY 2006: BA	32.308
OT	26.851
FY 2007:	05
BA OT	33.603 28.597
FY 2008:	40.337
BA	34.611
OT	29.664

FY 2009:	FY 2003:		FY 2009:	
BA		24.597	BA	14.980
OT 30.755		23.441	OT	14.298
FY 2010:	FY 2004:		FY 2010:	15 000
BA	BA	24.583	BA OT	15.233 14.501
OT	OT FY 2005:	23.718	FY 2011:	14.301
FY 2011: BA		27.003	BA	15.492
OT	OT	25.780	OT	14.750
FY 2012:	FY 2006:		FY 2012:	15 755
BA	BA	26.828	BA OT	15.755 14.992
OT 33.408		25.616	FY 2013	14.992
FY 2013:	FY 2007:	00.000	BA	16.023
BA	BA OT	26.299 25.107	OT	15.259
OT	FY 2008:	23.107	(10) Education, Training, Employme	ent, and
(3) General Science, Space and Technology	BA	25.507	Social Services (500)	
(250):	OT	24.381	FY 2003:	
FY 2003:	FY 2009:		BA	82.830
BA	D/1	26.092	OT	81.581
FY 2004:	01	25.128	FY 2004: BA	90.170
BA	FY 2010: BA	25.545	OT	84.344
OT 22.805	OT	24.716	FY 2005:	
FY 2005:	FY 2011:	21.710	BA	91.457
BA 24.433		24.991	OT	87.036
OT 23.862	OT	24.180	FY 2006: BA	93.428
FY 2006:	FY 2012:		OT	90.541
BA	BA	24.573	FY 2007:	55.011
FY 2007:	OT FY 2013:	23.778	BA	95.569
BA 26.055		24.297	OT	92.986
OT	OT	23.498	FY 2008: BA	97.925
FY 2008:	(8) Transportation (400)	20.100	OT	97.923
BA 26.832	FY 2003:		FY 2009:	55.110
OT 25.948	BA	67.975	BA	99.813
FY 2009:	OT	70.884	OT	97.440
BA	FY 2004:		FY 2010:	101 551
OT	BA	69.586	BA	101.551 99.289
BA	OT	70.715	OT FY 2011:	99.209
OT 27.296	FY 2005:	mo 0.40	BA	103.529
FY 2011:	BA	70.649	OT	101.117
BA 28.805	OT FY 2006:	69.666	FY 2012:	
OT 27.963	BA	72.676	BA	105.790
FY 2012:	OT	70.388	OT FY 2013:	102.985
BA	FY 2007:		BA	107.265
OT	BA	75.390	OT	104.934
FY 2013: BA	OT	71.898	(11) Health (550)	
OT	FY 2008:	mm 044	FY 2003:	
(5) Natural Resources and Environment	BA OT	77.011	BA	223.071
(300)	FY 2009:	73.743	OT	217.922
FY 2003:	BA	78.928	FY 2004: BA	240.554
BA		75.682	OT	238.871
OT	TT 7 0010		FY 2005:	
FY 2004:	BA	77.775	BA	259.701
BA 31.623	OT	77.261	OT	259.428
OT 30.856	FY 2011 BA	70.040	FY 2006:	070 000
FY 2005:	OFF	78.642 78.309	BA OT	279.236 279.028
BA	E37 0010	70.303	FY 2007:	213.020
OT	BA	79.543	BA	299.614
BA	OFF	79.333	OT	298.683
OT	FY 2013:		FY 2008:	000.001
FY 2007:	BA	80.476	BA	322.061
BA	OT	80.356	OT FY 2009:	320.731
OT	(9) Community and Regional Deve	lopment	BA	345.548
FY 2008:	(450)		OT	344.059
BA	1 1 2000.	, a	FY 2010:	
OT	BA	12.351	BA	370.626
BA	OT FY 2004:	16.014	OT FY 2011:	369.097
OT 34.544	BA	14.063	BA	396.818
FY 2010:	OT	15.883	OT	395.280
BA 36.021	FY 2005:		FY 2012:	
OT	BA	14.138	BA	415.790
FY 2011:	OT	15.891	OT	414.384
BA	FY 2006:		FY 2013:	445 404
OT	D11	14.321	BA	445.484 444.082
BA	OT	14.962	OT	111.002
OT	FY 2007: BA	14.536	(13) Income Security (600)	
FY 2013:	OT	14.556	FY 2003: BA	326.395
BA		11.001	OT	334.182
OT 37.600		14.745	FY 2004:	334.102
OT		14.745 14.123		319.518

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_OT	324.840	FY 2005:		OT	310.822
FY 2005: BA	333.821	BA OT	37.946 39.993	FY 2006: BA	352.463
OT	337.123	FY 2006:		OT	352.463
FY 2006: BA	341.816	BA OT	37.984 38.450	FY 2007: BA	380.846
OT	344.292	FY 2007:		OT	380.846
FY 2007: BA	349.199	BA OT	38.461 38.252	FY 2008: BA	405.947
OT	350.945	FY 2008: BA	39.477	OT	405.947
FY 2008: BA	361.697	OT	39.128	FY 2009: BA	429.867
OT FY 2009:	362.808	FY 2009: BA	40.497	OT	429.867
BA	373.372	OT	40.212	FY 2010:	450 007
OT FY 2010:	374.083	FY 2010: BA	41.599	BA OT	450.997 450.997
BA	384.844	OT	41.299	FY 2011:	470 740
OT FY 2011:	385.347	FY 2011: BA	42.889	BA OT	473.746 473.746
BA	400.266	OT	42.472	FY 2012:	
OT FY 2012:	400.688	FY 2012: BA	44.207	BA OT	496.401 496.401
OT	403.738	OT	43.760	FY 2013:	
OT FY 2013:	404.146	FY 2013: BA	45.576	BA OT	514.926 514.926
BA	418.672	OT	45.120	(19) Allowances (920)	314.320
OT	419.245	(17) General Government (800)		FY 2003:	
(15) Veterans Benefits and Services ( FY 2003:	(700)	FY 2003: BA	18.318	BA	0.000
BA	57.697	OT	18.133	OT FY 2004:	0.000
OT FY 2004:	57.524	FY 2004: BA	20.202	BA	-7.621
BA	63.779	OT	20.108	OT FY 2005:	-4.671
OT	63.265	FY 2005: BA	20.635	BA	-6.541
FY 2005: BA	67.135	OT	20.751	OT FY 2006:	-5.652
OT	66.558	FY 2006: BA	20.656	BA	-7.331
FY 2006: BA	65.397	OT	20.505	OT	-7.407
OT	64.995	FY 2007: BA	21.126	FY 2007: BA	-8.947
FY 2007: BA	63.874	OT FY 2008:	20.888	OT	-9,203
OT	63.442	BA	21.236	FY 2008: BA	-9.959
FY 2008: BA	67.666	OT FY 2009:	21.013	OT	-10.111
OT	67.398	BA	21.946	FY 2009: BA	-11.526
FY 2009: BA	69.279	OT FY 2010:	21.504	OT	-10.030
ОТ	68.924	BA	22.695	FY 2010:	19 000
FY 2010: BA	70.992	OT FY 2011:	22.212	BA OT	$-12.888 \\ -10.923$
OT	70.588	BA	23.458	FY 2011:	10 414
FY 2011: BA	75.669	OT FY 2012:	22.946	BA OT	$-16.414 \\ -12.671$
OT	75.249	BA	24.255	FY 2012:	
FY 2012: BA	72.618	OT FY 2013:	23.880	BA OT	$-21.460 \\ -15.707$
OT	72.097	BA	25.076	FY 2013:	
FY 2013: BA	77.455	OT	24.520	BA OT	-25.618 $-19.181$
OT	76.989	(18) Net Interest (900) FY 2003:		Concurrent Resolution on The Budget	
(16) Administration of Justice (750)		BA	240.203	Year 2004—H. Con. Res. 95; Revision	
FY 2003:	41 079	OT	240,203	Conference Agreement; Pursuant t	
BA OT	41.976 38.533	FY 2004: BA	259.528	421	
FY 2004:	27 690	OT	259.528	[In billions of dollars]	9000
BA OT	37.626 42.480	FY 2005: BA	310.822	Paygo Scorecard	64.787
		THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY O		***	

# SENATE COMMITTEE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT [Budget year total 2003; in millions of dollars]

Committee	Direct spending	jurisdiction	Entitlement funded in annual appro- priations acts	
Continuitee	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
Appropriations: General purpose discretionary Memo:	843,550	808,891	0	0
on-budget off-budget Highways Mass Transit Mandatory Total	839,738 3,812 0 1,436 391,344 1,236,330	805,053 3,838 31,264 6,551 378,717 1,225,423	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Armed Services Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Commerce, Science, and Transportation	19,359 73,996 12,558 10,590	14,964 73,473 1,599 7,255	52,763 275 118 885	40,712 233 16 814

#### CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

SENATE COMMITTEE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT—Continued [Budget year total 2003; in millions of dollars]

Committee	Direct spending	jurisdiction	Entitlement funded in annual appro- priations acts	
Continue	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
Energy and Natural Resources Environment and Public Works Finance Foreign Relations Governmental Affairs Judiclary Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Rules and Administration Intelligence Veterans' Affairs Judian Affairs	2,879 30,830 759,790 13,595 66,931 6,509 5,328 82 0 1,171 456 864	2,539 2,372 763,497 11,366 65,426 6,441 4,805 85 0 1,109 444 769	48 0 286,512 183 16,564 534 2,814 104 223 30,321 0	63 0 286,509 183 16,564 527 2,801 103 223 29,969 0
Unassigned to Committee	1 869 624	(358,647)	201 2//	379 717

Revisions Pursuant to Section 421 of the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2004—H. Con. Res. 95.

### SENATE COMMITTEE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT [Budget year total 2004; in millions of dollars]

Committee	Direct spending jurisdiction		Entitlements funded i priations	
- Communication of the Communi	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
Appropriations: General purpose discretionary Memo:	783,214	822,895	0	0
on-budget off-budget Highways	778,957 4,257 0	818,688 4,207 31,555		0
Mäss Transit	1,461	6,634	0	0
Mandatory	426,949	410,619	0	0
Total	1,211,624	1,271,703	0	0
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  Armed Services	20,801	16,826	55,536	39,472
	77,560	77,326	375	376
Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs	13,946	2,251	120	12
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	10,908	6,518	827	843
Energy and Natural Resources	2,669	2,390	64	70
Environment and Public Works	35,654	2,312	0	0
Finance	757,720	761,042	315,856	315,780
Foreign Relations	9,787	11,689	179	179
Governmental Affairs Judiciary Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	68,533	67,000	17,362	17,362
	7,883	7,230	511	523
	5,232	4,439	2,888	2,872
Rules and Administration	82	246	109	109
Intelligence	0	0	226	226
Veterans' Affairs	1,311	1,260	32,914	32,795
Indian Affairs Small Business Unassigned to Committee	475	472	0	0
	3	(23)	0	0
	(371,280)	(355,315)	0	0
Total	1,852,908	1,877,366	426,949	410,619

Revisions Pursuant to Section 421 of the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2004—H. Con. Res. 95.

### SENATE COMMITTEE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT [5-year total: 2004–2008; in millions of dollars]

Committee	Direct spending	jurisdiction	Entitlements funded in annual appro- priations acts	
John Mills	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	109,330	91,951	288,857	206,256
Armed Services	417,330	416,461	2,992	3,047
Ranking Housing and Urban Affairs	71,267	7,231	626	(104)
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	60,492	38,575	4,538	4,541
Elicity and natural resources	11,991	10,905	320	333
Environment and Public Works	190,317	10,561	0	0
Finance	4,502,612	4,511,696	1,824,189	1,823,275
Foreign Relations	59,034	55,412	876	876
Governmental Affairs	372,971	365,695	93,701	93,701
Judiciary	25,585	25,756	2,629	2,640
Health, Éducation, Labor, and Pensions	32,738	29,056	15,226	15,126
Rules and Administration	408	574	588	588
Intelligence	0	0	1,230	1,230
Veteran's Affairs	6,561	6,382	176,815	176,196
Indian Affairs	2,587	2,569	0	0
Small Business	6	(59)	0	0

Revisions Pursuant to Section 421 of the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2004—H. Con. Res. 95.

## SENATE COMMITTEE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT [10-year total: 2004–2013; in millions of dollars]

Committee	Direct spending jurisdiction		Entitlements funded in annual appro- priations acts	
Onnintee	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	209.130	178.892	600.618	446.118
Armed Services	910.879	909.159	7.129	7.273
Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs	141.433	1.859	1,318	(176)
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	113,446	69.687	10.252	10,232
Energy and Natural Resources	22.263	20.458	640	653
Environment and Public Works	393.698	19,403	0	0
Finance	10.596.016	10.611.144	4.487.111	4.485.223
Foreign Relations	127.160	116.399	1.733	1.733
Foreign Relations	833.756	819.817	206,453	206.453
Judiciary	42.068	41.692	5.459	5.455

SENATE COMMITTEE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT—Continued
[10-year total: 2004–2013: in millions of dollars]

Committee E	Direct spending	jurisdiction	Entitlements funded in annual appro- priations acts	
	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Rules and Administration Intelligence Veteran's Affairs Indian Affairs Small Business	71,126 803 0 12,781 5,805 6	64,104 1,025 0 12,501 5,765 (76)	32,601 1,309 2,648 373,770 0	32,468 1,309 2,648 372,651 0

Revisions Pursuant to Section 421 of the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2004—H. Con. Res. 95.

#### TRIBUTE TO WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY'S WILLIAM E. BIVIN FORENSIC SOCIETY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to express congratulations to all the team members and coaches of Western Kentucky University's William E. Bivin Forensic Society. The group recently was named world champions at the International Forensic Association Championship in Vancouver, BC.

It is my understanding that this is just one of the many titles the team has claimed over the last year. The team won the 2003 Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha National Championship. They defeated 87 other universities to win the 2003 American Forensic Association National Championship. And most recently they captured the National Forensic Association Individual Events Championship. This is an impressive list of victories and a tribute to their hard work and dedication.

I wish to acknowledge each of the winning students: Corey Alderdice, Drew Allen, Elizabeth Au, Margaret Au, Stacy Bernaugh, Chris Blackford, Keith Blaser, Chris Brasfield, Grace Bruenderman, David Burns, Jenny Corum, Ashley Courtney, Justin Cress, Tony Damico, Nicole Estenfelder, Raegan Gibson, Nicole Hawk, Adam Henze, Kate Hertweck, Ryan Howell, Lindsey Nave, Jacob Peregoy, Jennifer Purcell, Hanna Reliford, Alex Rogers, Nick Romerhausen, Evelio Silvera, Rebecca Simms, Courtney Smith, Joen Taylor, Katie Tyree, Jordon Wadlington, Caleb Williams, Jeff Woods, and Courtney Wright.

I would also like to recognize and thank their outstanding coaches, Judy Woodring, Jace Lux, Bonnie McDonald, Greg Robertson, Matt Gerbig, Doug Mory, Chris Grove, and Joe Day, who provided leadership to this winning team.

Mr. President, Western Kentucky University's William E. Bivin Forensic Society has both national and international successes to be proud of. On behalf of myself and my colleagues in the Senate, I congratulate them on their significant achievements.

### THE CRACKDOWN AGAINST PRODEMOCRACY DISSIDENTS IN CUBA

Mr LEAHY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to denounce, in the strongest terms, the recent deplorable actions by the regime of President Fidel Castro.

While the world focuses on the aftermath of the war in Iraq and the enormity of Saddam Hussein's atrocities are revealed, we must not ignore egregious violations of human rights taking place much closer to home.

I have long believed that the way to encourage democratic reform and respect for human rights in Cuba is not through isolation of this tiny island nation, but through the normalization of our relationship. I totally oppose the restrictions on the right of Americans to travel to Cuba.

But the recent crackdown against pro-democracy dissidents in Cuba is not only a reprehensible affront to human decency, it has threatened already strained relations between Cuba and the United States and between Cuba and the rest of the world.

My visit to Cuba in March 1999 reinforced my belief in the folly of our antiquated policy. I met with President Castro and a number of political activists. I saw firsthand the need for ending not only the embargo—which simply compounds the misery of Cuba's people and provides President Castro with a convenient excuse, but the repression and pervasive climate of fear perpetrated by that government

petrated by that government.

On March 18, the Cuban government suddenly launched an attack against its political opponents. After storming their houses, seizing their computers, typewriters, fax machines and books, the government arrested 79 people, accusing them of subverting Cuba's government by conspiring with James Cason, the head of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana. They were charged with the vague crime of "collaborating with a foreign power against their homeland."

Less than 3 weeks later, the Cuban courts had tried, convicted and sentenced at least 75 of these people in a whirlwind process of closed-door trials lasting less than one day in improvised courts where undercover security agents who had infiltrated dissident groups surfaced as witnesses.

The punishments for conduct, that in most countries would not even be criminal, ranged from 6 to 28 years in prison.

Those arrested in this crackdown include leaders of independent labor unions and opposition political parties, independent journalists, librarians, and pro-democracy activists. More than half of the arrests were local organizers of the Varela Project reform effort.

The Varela Project collected more signatures than the constitutionally

required 10,000 for a national referendum calling for electoral reforms, freedom of association, and amnesty for nonviolent political prisoners.

The Cuban government responded with a counter petition, decreeing the Cuban socialist system to be untouchable. While local organizers received some of the heavier sentences, Osvaldo Paya, head of the Varela Project, was not arrested. Mr. Paya said that the crackdown is "an attempt to kill the chances of peaceful change in Cuba, but [dissidents] will continue seeking peaceful reforms."

At a meeting this month of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, the Swedish foreign minister warned that the crackdown in Cuba could harm its prospects for cooperation with the European Union.

On March 10, the European Commission opened its first diplomatic office in Havana. Cuba is applying for membership in the Cotonou Agreement—the economic assistance pact between the EU and African, Caribbean, and Pacific nations. Cubans would benefit significantly from the Cotonou Agreement, but Cuba's entry is now in jeopardy.

The U.N. Commission on Human Rights also adopted a resolution to send a U.N. envoy to Cuba to investigate human rights abuses, but Cuban officials have apparently rejected this.

The Bush administration is reportedly considering punitive measures to restrict the flow of American dollars to Cuba by further limiting the number of Americans who may travel to Cuba on charter flights, and by reducing the monetary remittances that Cubans in the United States send back to their families in Cuba. Unfortunately, such measures would only hurt the wrong people.

If this were not bad enough, earlier this month, Cuban authorities detained three men who had hijacked a ferry crossing the Florida Straits on its way to the United States. Less than 24 hours later, these men were summarily executed by a firing squad. No one supports the act of hijacking, and people of good conscience disagree about the death penalty. But such an outrageous denial of due process should be universally condemned.

As one who strongly opposes the policy of the Bush administration and previous U.S. administrations of isolating Cuba, a policy which for more than 40 years has failed to achieve any of its goals. I want to add my voice to those who have denounced these recent events.